

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT...CORRECTED
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BURLINGTON VT
504 PM EDT SUN MAY 10 2009

...EF1 TORNADO IN WASHINGTON VERMONT SATURDAY MAY 9 2009...

AN ASSESSMENT TEAM FROM THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN BURLINGTON VERMONT HAS DETERMINED THAT A TORNADO WITH AN INTENSITY OF EF1 ON THE ENHANCED FUJITA SCALE MOVED THROUGH THE VILLAGE OF WASHINGTON VERMONT ON SATURDAY MAY 9 2009. THE TORNADO OCCURRED AROUND 5 PM...AND FIRST CAUSED DAMAGE WEST OF WASHINGTON...THEN TRAVELED EAST-SOUTHEAST THROUGH THE VILLAGE BEFORE DISSIPATING. THE LENGTH OF THE PATH WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF MILE.

MULTIPLE EYEWITNESSES OBSERVED THE TORNADO...AND THEIR DESCRIPTIONS ACCURATELY DESCRIBE THE STRUCTURE AND MOVEMENT OF A TORNADIC THUNDERSTORM. IN ADDITION...THE DEBRIS PATTERNS SUPPORT THE ROTATING WINDS EXPERIENCED IN A TORNADO. SOME DEBRIS WAS BLOWN DOWNWIND ALONG THE TORNADO PATH...WHILE OTHER DEBRIS WAS BLOWN AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE PATH.

ALTHOUGH THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE WAS SPORADIC...TREES WERE SNAPPED AND UPROOTED AND AN ENTIRE APARTMENT ROOF WAS REMOVED. ADDITIONALLY... A STEEL AND MEMBRANE BARN WAS DESTROYED. THE DEGREE OF DAMAGE TO THESE STRUCTURES IS CONSISTENT WITH WINDS RANGING FROM 90 TO 100 MILES AN HOUR. THE EF1 INTENSITY INCLUDES WIND SPEEDS FROM 86 TO 110 MILES PER HOUR...MAKING THIS TORNADO SOLIDLY IN THE EF1 CATEGORY.

TORNADOES ARE RELATIVELY RARE IN VERMONT. ON AVERAGE 1 TORNADO IS REPORTED EVERY TWO YEARS. IN ADDITION...A TORNADO OCCURRENCE IN MAY IS EVEN MORE RARE. A QUICK SEARCH OF TORNADO RECORDS FOR VERMONT REVEALS THAT THIS IS THE 2ND EARLIEST CONFIRMED TORNADO IN THE STATE SINCE 1950. THE EARLIEST TORNADO ON RECORD OCCURRED IN BENNINGTON COUNTY ON MARCH 22 1955...AND WAS RATED AN F2 ON THE OLD FUJITA SCALE.